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UNCLE HO's memory will live for ever in the Vietnamese people's hearts

Heeding President Ho Chi Minh's Words and True to Our Oath to Him

LET'S RESOLUTELY FIGHT U.S. AGGRESSION TILL COMPLETE VICTORY

— *Nhan Dan* editorial of Sept. 12, 1969 —

MOURNING beloved President HO CHI MINH, every Vietnamese revolutionary and patriot is still hearing his voice ringing in his or her heart: **"Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom", "Viet Nam is one country, the Vietnamese are one nation", "We would rather endure any sacrifice than lose independence and be slaves."**

His voice is the voice of the Fatherland calling on us to enhance our patriotism, carry forward the tradition of national salvation of the Vietnamese people who have for 4,000 years never ceased building their country with their creative labour and defending their homeland with their dauntless fighting power. Every word of President Ho illumined for us the truth of life and of the revolution with the radiant light of Marxism-Leninism. During more than 60 years of his revolutionary life President Ho was the symbol of the Vietnamese people's resolve to fight till total victory for national independence and unity. The most bitter hatred that burnt in the President's heart was for the imperialist aggressors and their henchmen, the Vietnamese traitors. In all circumstances, he always maintained — as firm as the Long Range — his thorough opposition to imperialism.

FOR nearly 40 years since the birth of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, under his leading banner, the Vietnamese people have put up a persistent fight and have recorded one victory after another on the path to independence and freedom. Closely united, serving with dedication the working class, people and the Fatherland, our beloved Party founded and led by President Ho Chi Minh has always worked out sound lines, watchwords and methods for the Vietnamese revolution and for our national salvation. By carrying on the August Revolution, we defeated the French colonialists and Japanese fascists, and overthrew the feudalists, 'it tool in their hands to invade our country, and enslave our people. By building the democratic republican regime in Viet Nam, President Ho Chi Minh opened a new era in Viet Nam's history, the era when the labouring people have become master of the country and society of Viet Nam and their own destiny. By defending the noble fruits of the August Revolution, closely and broadly united in the national front formed by President Ho Chi Minh, the people of all strata and the patriotic forces of Viet Nam carried out a nine-year-long resistance war against the French colonialists and the US interventionists. We recorded tremendous successes

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South Viet Nam

FRESH PLAF FEATS PROMPTED BY GRIEF

On the Saigon Defence Line:

⊙ **2,250 Adverse Troops and 6 Companies and 214 Military Vehicles Put out of Action, and 48 Aircraft Shot Down.**

In the Mekong Delta:

⊙ **1,400 Enemy Casualties, One Battalion and One Battalion CP Badly Mauled.**

Around Da Nang:

⊙ **800 Troops and 5 Companies Wiped Out or Decimated, 14 Military Vehicles Blasted out of Use.**

33rd and 34th Plenary Session of Paris Viet Nam Talks (Sept. 13 and 18, 1969)

FRESH US TROOP PULL-OUT : A NEW NIXON TRICK

US step-up of the war was strongly denounced by the DRVN and South Viet Nam PRG representatives at the 33rd and 34th plenary sessions of the Paris Conference.

They showed that in South Viet Nam US troops had pushed up terrorist operations and bombings even during the three-day PLAF - ordered mourning truce. Contrary to US claim that "the number of B.52 missions was reduced last month", the figures supplied by the US Command in Saigon revealed that in July and August 1969 these sorties had been on the increase compared with the first half of 1969.

In North Viet Nam, US planes continued to violate the air space of many localities, including Hanoi, while American guns based south of the DMZ and from US men-of-war operating in the Tonking Gulf pounded villages near the 17th parallel.

President Nixon has just declared that "The only item which is not negotiable is the right of the people of South Viet Nam to determine their own future free of outside interference", but in fact the US has been openly challenging the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese by forcing on the latter the new Thieu - Ky-Khiem puppet administration and by chiefly intensifying the repressive campaign code-named Phoenix operation aimed at liquidating or arresting 60,000 people more until the end of 1969.

The DRVN and PRG representatives exposed Nixon's "new withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam" crafty trick. They pointed out that up to now the public had been kept in the dark about the real number of GIs operating in South Viet Nam, the figures released by US official sources being quite self - contradictory. Large sections of public opinion in the US and in the world have revealed that US contingents withdrawn by stages were insignificant compared with the total half a million - odd US build-up in South Viet Nam. It was but a scheme to prolong US military occupation and aggressive war in the South. This could not in any way help calm down US public opinion which has come out strongly against Nixon's war policy and for an end to the Viet Nam war and repatriation of all US troops. In his July 20, 1969 appeal, President Ho Chi Minh said: "The Vietnamese people firmly demand the withdrawal of all US and satellite troops, not the withdrawal of 25,000, or 250,000, or 500,000 men, but a total, complete, unconditional withdrawal. Only in this way will it be possible to retrieve the honour of the US, and to avoid for hundreds of thousands of young Americans a useless death in South Viet Nam and suffering and mourning for hundreds of thousands of American families."

Another subject dealt with by the DRVN representative is the smear campaign launched at present by the US rulers against the DRVN in connection with American pilots captured during their criminal air raids on the North Vietnamese people. He recalled the DRVN viewpoint and stressed that the American air pirates now in North Viet Nam jails had been caught red-handed, that they were war criminals under the principles laid by the Nuremberg tribunal and could not benefit from the stipulations of the Geneva Convention. These criminals fall within the exclusive jurisdiction of the DRVN, an independent and sovereign state. Despite their offences, the DRVN government has been constantly giving them a humanitarian treatment. This has been made plain in the Memorandum recently issued by the DRVN Red Cross (See page 4 of this issue).

Let's Resolutely Fight U.S. Aggression . . .

(Continued from page 1)

and not only defeated the French expeditionary forces assisted by the US but also made a decisive contribution to overthrowing the colonial system of imperialism as a whole. "Viet Nam — Ho Chi Minh — Dien Bien Phu", these words have become the banner that inspires the national liberation movement all over the world, and a very great symbol of our time.

FOR 15 years now, as our country is temporarily divided into two zones and the US imperialists have been feverishly resorting to the most brazen and brutal schemes to turn South Viet Nam into their new-type colony, our people's fight against US aggression, for national salvation has been focussed on South Viet Nam — the Iron Fort of the Fatherland, the heroic great frontline. One hundred years ago, the South of our country was the first to raise high the banner of liberation struggle against French colonialism. Today, it is valiantly bearing the brunt of the war, as vanguard in the forefront against US aggression, not only for national independence and reunification, but also for the great cause and for the common interest: of the whole progressive mankind.

With boundless love and confidence, President Ho Chi Minh followed every step, every action, every word, every thought of the South Vietnamese people. His heart bled at every drop of blood shed on the High Plateaux, in Saigon in Nam Bo, in Hue and Da Nang, in Quang Tri, Thua Thien. Reversely, every tear he shed because of South Viet Nam's suffering and sacrifice and every word of his appeals for the liberation of South Viet Nam deeply permeated the hearts of those on the big frontline.

Warmly responding to President Ho Chi Minh's appeal, the South Vietnamese people have been fighting with extraordinary courage under the clearsighted leadership of the South Viet Nam NFL and have won one resounding victory after another, thus supplying the reason for pride to our people and eliciting admiration and esteem from the world's peoples. South Viet Nam is gloriously foiling the US "special war." It has thwarted the strategic offensive plans of the US "local war." It is mounting continual attacks and wide spread uprisings in the new period full of splendid feats of arms which produce sensations in the United States and the whole globe.

BOUND to South Viet Nam by the most sacred kinship, North Viet Nam has always had the clearest sense of its duty toward the South and endeavoured to fulfil it.

Advancing to socialism without passing through the stage of capitalist development, it has launched a widespread emulation movement in response to President Ho Chi Minh's appeal that "everyone redoubles his efforts" so as to bring into fuller play its role as revolutionary base of the Fatherland, of the struggle for national reunification and great rear of the fight against US aggression, for national salvation. Ready at all times to answer most effectively every call from the South, the North is fully prepared to frustrate all encroachments upon our land, waters and air space by US imperialism. Countering the US savage war of destruction with a marvellous ground-to-air war, it exploded the myth of the US air power.

IN the past fifteen years, President Ho Chi Minh constantly reminded us that the resistance to US aggression was a national salvation fight full of hardships and sacrifices but bound to win complete victory. The US neo-colonialist aggressive war against our country is a most brutal and barbarous aggressive war in history. The US is the ringleader of the imperialist camp commanding all the reactionary forces in the world, the most ruthless aggressor ever known in history. The Vietnamese people from North to South, have grasped President Ho Chi Minh's teaching: **"The resistance war against US aggression may drag on. Our compatriots may have to face new sacrifices in property and life. Whatever may happen, we must keep firm our resolve to fight the US aggressors till total victory"** (President Ho Chi Minh's testament — Ed.).

And they have made clear their resolve through the President's words:

"Our armed forces and people throughout the country, millions as one man, upholding revolutionary heroism, and fearless of sacrifices and hardships, are determined to carry on and step up the resistance war, with the firm resolve to fight and win, till the complete withdrawal of US troops and till the total collapse of the puppet army and administration, in order to liberate the South, defend the North and ultimately achieve peaceful national reunification" *(His July 20 appeal* — Ed.).

Before departing from this world, President Ho Chi Minh again foretold the inevitable successful outcome of our people's fight. He said that this is a development fully consistent with the basic trend of our era and the evolution of the Vietnamese revolution. His scientific conviction was as beautiful and crystal clear as our exalted ideal.

Before passing from among us President Ho Chi Minh said:

"Whatever difficulties and hardships ahead, our people are sure of total triumph. The US imperialists shall have to quit. Our Fatherland shall be reunified. Our compatriots in the North and in the South shall be re-united under the same roof. We, a small nation, will have earned the signal honour of defeating, through a heroic struggle, two big imperialisms — the French and the American — and making a worthy contribution to the national liberation movement" *(President Ho Chi Minh's testament* — Ed.).

TO the memory of President Ho Chi Minh, we vow:

"For ever to carry aloft the banner of national independence, he resolved to fight and defeat the US aggressors, liberate the South, defend the North, and reunify the country in fulfilment of his wish." (Funeral oration of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, read by Le Duan, First Secretary, at the ceremony in memory of President Ho Chi Minh — Ed.).

A hero-unit of the People's Air Force takes the oath at a ceremony in memory of President HO CHI MINH

Translating Grief into Revolutionary Actions

SUCH is the determination of the entire Vietnamese people who have felt ineffably grieved by the loss of their great leader, President Ho Chi Minh. Such is their solemn pledge, their best and most realistic way to fulfill the wishes expressed by the President in his Testament.

In this spirit, the transport and communications branch has recorded remarkable achievements in ensuring uninterrupted traffic despite the recent flood. In Ha Tinh province, the Chien Thang (Victory) ship-yard overfulfilled its monthly plan by restoring fifteen ferries to good repair. During the 7-day mourning for the late President, a unit of lorry drivers loaded and unloaded themselves 121 tons of goods, thus saving time for increasing the number of trips.

In Thai Nguyen province, the workers of the Viet Bac printing-house have launched "a month of action to show their gratitude towards President Ho Chi Minh." The type-setters in the paper "Viet Nam Doc Lap" (Independent Viet Nam) — organ founded by President Ho Chi Minh in August 1941 —, have doubled their daily labour productivity.

At the Thai Nguyen Iron and Steel Complex which had been visited thrice by President Ho Chi Minh, the workers have made great efforts to be worthy of the attentions shown by the President who urged them "to temper themselves like steel." On Sept.4, those of the casting workshop produced high-quality steel bars named "May 19" in memory of the President's birthday; from Sept.4 to 7, they increased by 20.120 per cent the production of main articles. Those of the engineering and power section undertook to put in 1/2 — 1 hour of extra-work a day during the official mourning for the President with a view to fitting four machines called "Sept.3" (death day of President Ho Chi Minh) ahead of schedule.

In Nam Dinh, man and woman workers of the Textile Milll recalled the visits made by the President in 1957, 1961 and 1964 and particularly his recommendations: "Now that you are masters of your plant, try to be equal to your new position. All of you must see that your plant is well managed, produces at a quick tempo many good and cheap goods. Cadres should ever more care for the workers' living conditions: to expand the workers' living quarters, well organize such social amenities as nursery classes, kindergartens, consultation rooms, infirmaries, etc..." Everyone pledged himself to do his best to step up production. The members of the Labour Youth in the L. Textile Workshop decided to turn out 67,000 metres of cloth in excess of the yearly norm.

Co-op members of Hong Thai (Hai Hung province) were deeply moved when reminiscing President Ho Chi Minh's visit on Feb.15,1965. Many of them went on a pilgrimage to the Village Resistance Memorial from where the President had addressed the population. 71-year-old Yen gathered his twenty children and grand-children to tell them of the sufferings and hardships of the peasants under the former regime. Said he: "We owe our decent life to the Party and Uncle Ho. Bear it in mind for your whole lifetime and do your best to contribute your share to the building of our co-op..."

The young people in Thanh Hoa province promised to "grow one million plants in memory of Uncle Ho." In ten days, those of Dong Son district grew 150,000 trees along a 7-kilometre road called "Uncle Ho's Road."

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH IN THE HEARTS OF HANOIESE

Reportage by HOANG TUAN NHA and TRAN QUYNH

WORKERS of the power station at Yen Phu, Hanoi, still keep fresh memory of the visit to their plant by President Ho Chi Minh, shortly after his comeback to Hanoi in 1954. He was of so simple access, and had such a warm voice. He told them — "Production of electric power is very important for the national economy. My dear young friends, you, mostly demobbed soldiers, are good fighters but bad technicians. Strive to master technique for the good of the country!" This recommendation of an elder to his younger brothers, of a father to his children, moved them a great deal and put them on their mettle to improve their work. Many have become good technicians, and Mai Tinh Kang, a labour hero.

Seventeen attacks by American aircraft did not bring the power plant to a standstill. Faithful to their pledge to Uncle Ho: to ensure a continuous flow of electricity to the capital city, workers of the plant braved the greatest dangers to keep it in good working order. Not only did they succeed but their militia teams also did their bits in the downing of many predatory planes. At present together with the entire people, they swear to the memory of Uncle Ho to do better, so long as their hearts beat.

WHEN he visited the Phu Dien co-operative (northwest suburb of Hanoi) in 1965, President Ho Chi Minh planted a banyan-tree. Since that memorable day, the drying-yard nearby was enlarged many times and paved. The co-operative has now a small engineering station with tractors, pumps, huskers and other electric machines. Thousands of trees have been grown. The banyan-tree is now over four metres high; in its strade which covers a large area, young and old folk come to sit under, and enjoy a rest.

The Phu Dien co-op farmers held a ceremony in memory of President Ho Chi Minh under the banyan-tree. On September 8, 1969, all the able-bodied co-op members, numbering over one thousand, dug near the tree a lake in which lotus will be grown and fish reared and the earth removed will raise the foundation of the cultural house to be built soon.

WE made a short visit to the Fine-Arts College, Yet Kieu Street. Painter-sculptor Diep Minh Chau who had, at the beginning of the first resistance war, and deep in the jungle o the Plain of Reeds, southern end of Viet Nam, drawn with the blood from his fingers the portrait of President Ho Chi Minh, whom he had only seen in photos, sat up through the night to complete the bust of the President. He said: "I wish to devote the rest of my days to note down the features of Uncle Ho, for our Southern people who have not had the happiness of meeting him, for our children and grand children..."

Tran Van Can, President of the Vietnamese Artists and Painters' Association, was to leave soon for the hilly area of Pac Bo, trying to revive the early days of President Ho's return to the homeland in 1941: the earth he ki sed, the Pac Bo grotto which was at the same time his living quarters, a meeting place and the cadres' training school; the Karl Marx peak on which he used to meditate at spare time, the Lenin brook from which he drew drinking water, the villages and inhabitants in the surroundings which were his citadel and bodyguards

SINCE President Ho Chi Minh's death, Doan To Nga, assistant-principal of the Hoang Van Thu elementary school, southern suburb of Hanoi, feels a lump in her throat whenever she looks at her pupils. For it was in her habit to say them at each beginning of term: "Give me your words to work hard, children! If many of you in this class are good, we shall have the great happiness to see Uncle Ho here. But it is most likely that the most meritorious among you will be allowed to see him." And in her class the number of "Uncle Ho's well-behaved children" had been swelling from year to year. It was quite a routine that returning from their visits to the Presidential Palace, the lucky children would give their mistresses as a token of their gratitude some sweets they had received from Uncle Ho. Remembering this, these children are now heavy-hearted. But they check their tears because Uncle Ho would not be content should they lack courage, one of the qualities he always wanted them to acquire.

OLD Nguyen Cung, a veteran of the first resistance war, lives in the same town district as President Ho Chi Minh. Father of seven boys and girls serving in the army — his youngest daughter is a company political instructor —, he told us, "Don't mind my tears. Uncle Ho, the father of our people, lived the most intense life one could dream of. I am quite sure that our people will plant his banner on the final goal' as the Party Central Committee First Secretary has said. But I feel terribly sad when I think of our southern compatriots who had been longing for ages to see him on V-day."

FROM all corners of the country our people continue to come to Ba Dinh Square to pay their respects to the memory of President Ho Chi Minh. Many are fathers and mothers who accompany their children there on evenings or Sundays. Sitting on the grass, they take a rest while their children play about under the genial gaze of Uncle Ho.

Nothing Can Whitewash U.S. Crimes in Viet Nam

-Memorandum of DRVN Red Cross-

On the occasion of the 21st International Conference of Red Cross held in Istanbul from September 6 to September 13, 1969, the DRVN Red Cross has issued a memorandum some excerpts of which follow:

THE United States is conducting in Viet Nam the cruellest colonial war in human history with more than one million US, puppet and satellite troops, with a big US air and naval force and all kinds of modern arms except nuclear weapons, and with most up-to-date tactics. It should be pointed out that the US has been using arms banned by international law such as war gas, toxic chemicals, phosphorous, napalm and steel-pellet bombs, thermite and magnesium bombs, etc...

In **South Viet Nam,** during the last 15 years, the US has dropped a tonnage of bombs surpassing by far that used during World War II.

With carpet-B52 bombings, indiscriminate artillery shellings under the policy of "burn all, kill all, destroy all" during "pacification" operations, the US and its puppets have systematically razed whole quarters, whole rural areas, destroyed crops and forests, poisoned drinking water sources, massacred civilians and cattle. Early in 1968, in face of the extremely powerful offensives and general uprisings of the South Viet Nam liberation forces and people, the US aggressors resorted to every conceivable means — even the bombing of populous quarters and cities in the areas under their control.

According to documents published by the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the US aggressors have destroyed Hue — a very ancient and well-known city —, repeatedly showered bombs and rockets on various quarters of Saigon — Cholon, devastated hundreds of district and provincial capitals and thousands of hamlets in South Viet Nam.

The US and its puppets have herded thousands of people into concentration camps disguised as "strategic hamlets", "new-life hamlets", "prosperity zones", etc... Hundreds of thousands of persons have been arrested, tortured, jailed and massacred with unknown barbarity.

The cruelty of the US against men of the adverse party who fall into their hands defied all imagination. The testimony brought by Peter Martinsen, an American specialized in the questioning of South Viet Nam prisoners, before the Bertrand Russell Tribunal has shown that the US troops have "absolute power, the right to decide life or death for the prisoners who have fallen into their hands." That is why not only many American journalists, social figures, and lawyers such as Orville Schell, Jonathan Edward Schell, J. Armstrong, etc... but also many American militarymen such as Donald Duncan, David Tuck, Peter Martinsen, Don Luce, Director of the "International Voluntary Service" — a so-called charity service, have courageously denounced the crimes perpetrated by the US troops against the persons who have fallen into their hands in South Viet Nam.

In **North Viet Nam,** during nearly 4 years, the US deployed its powerful air and naval forces and used a tonnage of bombs twice as big as that dropped by the US and its allies on the Pacific theatre during World War II.

Their dark design was to bring the Vietnamese people to their knees through bombardments and to bomb North Viet Nam back into the Stone Age. They consequently attacked the North with all types of aircraft, including the most modern one — the F.111A —, all kinds of bombs, rockets, warships, cannons, and used every conceivable method.

US aircraft flew repeated raids on the populated areas, residential quarters in the major towns including Hanoi and the port city of Haiphong, villages in the delta as well as on the highlands. According to still incomplete figures, US aircraft caused heavy damage to, or destroyed completely, 4 of the 6 big towns of North Viet Nam, violently attacked 86 per cent of the provincial capitals, 72 per cent of the hamlets, 66 per cent of the district towns and virtually the whole of North Viet Nam countryside. In Quang Binh province and Vinh Linh area (close to the provisional military demarcation line), not a single hamlet was spared by American bombs. The small Ngu-Thuy hamlet in Quang Binh province, inhabited by 2,869 people, was subject to 2,539 US air and naval attacks.

The US air force massively bombed economic and public utility establishments, bridges and roads, the system of dykes and dams. It bombed a series of schools including infant classes and universities, hundreds of hospitals and infirmaries, hundreds of temples and pagodas, churches and monuments of historical significance.

It is clear that the US authorities deliberately wanted to get at the economic potential, human beings and every source of life in the DRVN.

But the more the US aggressors multiply their crimes, the more they incense the Vietnamese people in both zones into dealing at them well-deserved blows.

In North Viet Nam alone, the US had lost more than 3,200 aircraft by the time it had to unconditionally stop the bombardments on the whole territory of the DRVN.

The whole progressive mankind, on the international tribunes as well as in the press and in other publications, has expressed utter indignation at the abominable crimes committed by the US aggressors in Viet Nam.

The Bertrand Russell International Tribunal, during its sessions in London, Stockholm and Roskilde (Denmark), examined in detail the crimes perpetrated in South Viet Nam by the US government — on the basis of the statute of the Nuremberg International Tribune defining the crimes against peace and of aggression, war crimes, crimes against humanity; on the basis of the Convention of December 9, 1948 on genocide; and on the basis of a substantial amount of evidence.

The Tribunal unanimously concluded:

1 — The US government is guilty of acts of aggression against Viet Nam, in terms of international law.

2 — The US government and armed forces are guilty of deliberate, systematic and large-scale bombardments against civilian targets, including the civilian population, houses villages, dams, dykes, medical establishments, leper hospitals, schools, churches, pagodas, historic and cultural establishments.

3 — The US government is guilty of genocide against the Vietnamese people.

4 — The US armed forces have used or tested the arms banned by the laws of war.

5 — The prisoners-of-war captured by the US forces are subjected to treatment banned by the laws of war.

6 — The US armed forces have subjected the civilian population to inhuman treatments banned by the laws of war.

With the participation of many eminent lawyers of various political tendencies and various nationalities, the World Lawyers' Conference on Viet Nam held in Grenoble in July 1968 to a man held the US government guilty of aggression against the fundamental rights of the Vietnamese people, of the crime against peace and humanity, crimes of war and the crime of genocide.

The US government must be held fully responsible for the crimes it has committed during its war of aggression in Viet Nam.

The US air pirates, now detained in North Viet Nam, bombed the DRVN on order from the US government, they were caught red-handed.

In acceding to the 1949 Geneva Convention on the treatment of prisoners-of-war, the DRVN has made explicit its reservations with regard to Article 85:

"The DRVN declares that the prisoners-of-war prosecuted and condemned for their war crimes or for their crimes against humanity, in conformity with the principles set by the Nuremberg Tribunal, will not benefit from the stipulations of the present Convention as specified under Article 85."

These air pirates come under the jurisdiction of the DRVN, an independent and sovereign State.

In spite of the crimes they committed against the Vietnamese people, the DRVN Government has always applied a humane policy toward them, allowed them to correspond with their families and to receive gifts, given medicare to those wounded during the bombardments or those who are sick. A number of them have been released by the General Political Department of the Viet Nam People's Army. The militants of the US movement against the war of aggression in Viet Nam, the journalists of the United States and other countries allowed to visit the air pirates in the detention camps in Hanoi as well as the released pirates themselves have been able to see with their own eyes the humane treatment given to the latter by the DRVN.

The US authorities, together with their South Viet Nam agents, have often distorted the humanitarian policy of the DRVN Government toward the US air pirates captured in the very act of their offences against North Viet Nam. This cynical move merely aims at covering up the crimes of aggression, crimes against peace and against humanity and crime of genocide committed by the US government against the Vietnamese people, as well as the monstrous crimes committed by the air pirates on order from Washington, and the obstinate refusal of the White House to peacefully settle the Viet Nam problem as well as their manoeuvres to deceive those whose husbands or sons have been taken prisoner in North Viet Nam. Facts have proved that such a trick can neither hide the truth nor whitewash the crimes of of war of the U.S. government in Viet Nam.

Failure of U.S. Defensive Strategy

South Viet Nam, an Enormous U. S. Armoured Car Cemetery

IN August last, celebrating the 24th anniversary of the Revolution and the Proclamation of Independence of Viet Nam, the patriots and combatants of South Viet Nam overpowered the two biggest US-puppet armoured units. The US 11th Armoured Cavalry Regiment sustained very serious losses while its godson, the puppet 15th Armoured Regiment, newly activated for a take-over under the "Vietnamisation" of the war, was put out of action on the main front, that of Saigon.

Yet, the PLAF had not any Panzer units, and no tank combats were reported in which steel mastodons with their air cover made head-on clashes as in the titanesque battle in the open sand desert of El Alamein or in the heart of a vast plain bristling with smoking carcasses in Kursk, during World War II. This did not prevent the enemy from losing, in the sector of Binh Long (Hon Quan — Loc Ninh) and that of Tay Ninh, respectively North and Northwest of Saigon, between Aug.12 and Aug.17, 530 military vehicles including 450 tanks and armoured troop carriers destroyed, plus 3,500 GIs and 2,500 puppet troops put out of action, 70 artillery pieces wrecked and 90 helicopters and planes cut down or damaged beyond repair.

This obvious failure of the Panzers in face of the adversaries armed with light weaponry and a grim singleness of purpose undoubtedly amazed and puzzled observers not acquainted with the tactics of people's war in South Viet Nam.

THE WORLD'S MOST PROSPEROUS HARDWARE TRADE

AN *AFP* dispatch of July 29 last gave a rather detailed description of a cemetery of US armoured cars at Ho Nai, about a dozen kilometres East of Bien Hoa. According to the report, thousands of Panzer carcasses littering an area of some 50 hectares of a clearing in the defoliated jungle constitute what is suitably called "the world's biggest war engine cemetery." It would be, however, more correct to call it "the world's most propsperous hardware trade," because many fat deals have been concluded there.

In fact, according to the same source, 10,948 tons of scrap-iron were sold there in a month in the first half of this year for a total of 67,560 dollars. In the same period, a new batch of wrecked engines was moved in, representing a handsome sum of 6,514,000 dollars when they came off the assembly line in the States.

The same source disclosed that enemy tanks and armoured cars put out of commission in the Saigon area were concentrated at the Long Binh storage compound (about 6km South-East of Bien Hoa) to be marshalled into 2 categories. Those which are still reparable will be taken to a logistic base somewhere in the US or the Pacific while the others will be taken to pieces on the spot. Accessories of value not yet destroyed are recuperated and the carcasses are sent to the Ho Nai cemetery. 2,400 engines were dealt with this way at Long Binh in 1968, even though the Americans were still far from retrieving all the armoured vehicles destroyed on the battlefield. How many such cemeteries are to be found in South Viet Nam has not been revealed by news agencies. Nevertheless, everybody knows that Ho Nai serves the Saigon area alone. There is every likelihood that there exist others for important sectors where plenty of armoured cars have also been used, such as those of Dong Ha — Hue, Da Nang, the Western High Plateaux and Tay Ninh—Long Binh, etc...

These hard facts give a more precise idea of the seriousness of the American armour losses in the South Viet Nam war zone. In the first half of this year, these losses were put at some 6,000 engines blasted to pieces or heavily damaged, an increase of more than 1,400 compared with the corresponding period of last year.

VILLAGE GUERILLAS EQUIPPED WITH BAZOOKAS AND YOUNG PEOPLE EXPERT IN MAKING ANTI-TANK MINES

THE Americans in South Viet Nam have considerably beefed up their armoured forces since last year when they had to fall upon the defensive strategy. The personality of their C-in-C may have suggested something, because Creighton Abrams has always bragged of being the tank commander who, some score years ago, distinguished himself in the Ardennes following the famous breach of the front operated by Von Rundstedt at the end of World War II. In the tactics adopted by the "Pentagon Fast" — the US HQ in South Viet Nam — the Panzers play an important role in the defence of bases, cities and main communication lines. That is why, even such units as the 1st Air Cavalry Division and the 101st Airborne Division (also turned into an air mobile division) which, normally, should be supplied with a light materiel ensuring them high mobility, now have on their hands a large number of such cumbersome engines. This, too, is an irrefutable proof of the unmistakably defensive strategic posture of the US in South Viet Nam.

However, the US tankmen today no longer expect an effective protection from the steel armour. On the contrary, these engines may at any moment become crematoria for them under the patriots' anti-tank fire. In one of its recent issues, the paper *Quan Giai Phong*, organ of the PLAF, related that tankists of the "Tropic Lighting" Division stationed at Ben Cui, near Dau Tieng, some 60 km NorthWest of Saigon, approached the villagers and asked them to tell the guerillas that as they would soon leave Viet Nam they would appreciate the PLAF's abstention from planting mines. The fact is that at each of their sorties over a perimeter of several kilometres of road around Dau Tieng, a number of mines laid by the patriots had exploded under the tank caterpillars and inflicted heavy damage and losses. Last summer in less than a month, 40 US vehicles were thus wiped out in these areas, among them 29 tanks.

The PLAF have made big progress in the technique of destruction of armoured vehicles and they boast a very diversified panoply of anti-tank weapons. Many units and many fighters have become famous in this speciality.

Unit No.9 of the PLAF on May 21, 1969 laid two ambushes in proximity of the enemy base of Tan Lac near Pleiku, Western High Plateaux, and destroyed 17 vehicles and decimated an adverse company. Another unit of the Western High Plateaux on June 11, 1969, virtually destroyed in a 40-minute battle an enemy motorized column on Highway No.14, rendering unserviceable 80 vehicles including 34 tanks and armoured cars. On June 24, a 3rd unit of the PLAF blotted out a US encampment at Giong Lon in Thu Dau Mot province, North of Saigon, destroying 32 vehicles after 15 minutes' fighting.

Lying in wait on Highway No.14 near An Khe, home base of the US 173rd Airborne Brigade, combatant Nghiem Xuan Loi in 3 days blew up 7 vehicles with 7 bazooka shots. Another guerilla of the Western High Plateaux, Nguyen Manh Te, in 3 engagements, succeeded in putting 8 tanks, 3 armoured cars and 3 GMC trucks out of commission with 16 bullets.

Cultural ensemble entertaining the fighters in the frontline, by a captured US tank

Nowadays, light but very effective A.T. weapons, either seized from the enemy or supplied as aid by the socialist countries, have been recast down to the smallest village guerilla units. The famous B-40 and B-41, as big as a young bamboo tree for trying at one end, a war-head, looking like a banana flower, constitute an obsession which dispirits the enemy tankmen who risk receiving direct hits from them at any time and in any place. On March 15, some guerillas of Gio An village, within the US perimeter south of the DMZ, wrecked 4 tanks while their comrades from the nearby Trung An village bagged 4 others.

In the coastal plains stretching over a distance of more than 400 kilometres from Da Nang to Nha Trang, each village has set a norm in enemy armoured vehicles put out of action and competes with one another in attaining and surpassing it. The guerillas vie with one another, either in luring the partners into devastating traps, or in surprising them in their camps when they dig in.

The emulation for the title of "valiant destroyer of armoured vehicles" awarded to any one who succeeds in putting an enemy engine out of commission spreads beyond the ranks of the liberation fighters and even reaches civilians including youngsters. A young boy, Mai The Hung, succeeded by imitating his elders in making an A.T. mine, with dud shells slammed into his village by enemy artillerymen. Planting his device on a road, he destroyed a tank and put to GIs out of action, winning at a go two titles, namely, "valiant destroyer of tanks" and "valiant anti-Yank fighter."

THE MOST DISASTROUS REVERSES OF THE US-PUPPET ARMOURED FORCES

THEY occurred just in the theatres where the enemy deploys the largest armoured forces, that is, in the area East of Nam Bo (comprising Saigon's outlying provinces) where in May and June last, 1,600 engines were knocked out.

Here are some of the many examples:

On March 28, 1969, on Route No. 26 between Tay Ninh and Dau Tieng, the PLAF mounted 3 attacks on US mechanized columns. During the first, in the morning, 14 vehicles were destroyed within moments. A few minutes later, 18 tanks and armoured cars, under the escort of a swarm of helicopters, rumbled in to the rescue of the first column. Fighting the enemy in close quarters, the patriots, towards noon, completely wiped out the relief column. The enemy command then launched the most powerful counter-offensive with an armoured column of the "Tropic Lightning" Division, say 200 vehicles.

While smoke was still lingering over craters of bombs dumped by tactical aircraft, the PLAF made their charge, under favour of the clouds of smoke and bomb craters to dodge the sight and the sweeping fire of the enemy. A terrible hand-to-hand fighting took place, in which they destroyed, at about 3 p.m. 51 engines with grenades, satchel charges, bazookas and recoilless rifles.

(continued page 7)

Worldwide Mourning for President Ho Chi Minh

"The Highest Tribute to Comrade Ho Chi Minh Is Stronger Solidarity with the Vietnamese People's Struggle"

WITH deep grief over President Ho Chi Minh's death, leaders of parties, governments and mass organizations of many countries in the world have solemnly reaffirmed their staunch support for the legitimate struggle of the Vietnamese people, considering it to be the highest homage paid to the great man. From all parts of the world thousands of letters and messages continue to flow into Hanoi or DRVN embassies abroad, expressing the profound sympathy of the world's peoples and their determination to stand at the side of the Vietnamese people in their struggle against US aggression and in socialist construction.

In his talks in Hanoi with the South Viet Nam delegation led by Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the CC of the South Viet Nam NFL, President of the Advisory Council to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, **A.N. Kosygin, President of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union**, reaffirmed that the CPSU, the Supreme Soviet, the Government and people of the Soviet Union would continue to wholeheartedly back the ten-point overall solution of the NFL and PRG of the RSVN, and unstintedly help the South Viet Nam people in their uphill but glorious resistance against US aggression till the withdrawal of the last Yankee from South Viet Nam.

Following the message of condolence of the CC of the Chinese Communist Party, the message dated Sept. 9 of the **Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China** pointed out: "In these days of mourning, we are convinced that the Vietnamese people will certainly translate their affliction into strength and, obeying President Ho Chi Minh's teachings, will resolutely resist the US aggressors and drive them out of South Viet Nam. The Chinese people will be always at the side of the Vietnamese people and staunchly help them fight to a finish."

In the name of the Korean Party and Government Delegation attending President Ho Chi Minh's funeral, **Choi Yong Kun, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the CC of the Korean Labour Party, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Peoples Assembly of the DPR of Korea**, declared, "The Korean Labour Party, Government and people will continue to strengthen their friendship and cooperation, to strongly support and assist the struggle of the Vietnamese people against US aggression."

On Sept. 8, in Prague, the CC of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, the National Front Committee, the Czech CC of the CPC and the Prague Committee of the CPC, organized a solemn ceremony in memory of President Ho Chi Minh.

At the observances, **Alois Indra, Secretary of the CC of the CPC** stated, "With the passing away of President Ho Chi Minh, the Czech and Slovak peoples have lost a true friend intimately acquainted with Czechoslovakia and her people. We highly value Comrade Ho Chi Minh's life and work. Faithful to proletarian internationalism, to our friendship with the Vietnamese people, we share with the Vietnamese people in their efforts to fulfil their legitimate aspirations. Together with other socialist countries and progressive mankind, we insist that the US respect the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people and withdraw its aggressive troops from beautiful Viet Nam."

On Sept. 9, the managers of the locomotive repair workshop at Pruscov, Poland, a district bound by sworn brotherhood with Thanh Tri district, DRVN, took the decision to name their workshop after Ho Chi Minh. Taking the floor, **I. Covstinski, district secretary of the Polish United Workers' Party**, underlined, "It is a great honour for our works to bear the name of President Ho Chi Minh, a great Vietnamese patriot, an eminent militant of the international communist movement, a close friend of the Polish people. Let's be worthy of his glorious name." To the DRVN embassy staff, he said, "Be assured of our continued assistance and support to the Vietnamese people in their struggle against US imperialism until victory."

From Haiti, **J.Dorcilien** wrote in the name of the **CC of the Haitian Communists Unified Party**: "We are convinced that the highest tribute to Comrade Ho Chi Minh is stronger solidarity with the Vietnamese people's struggle and unity of action of all anti-imperialist forces in the world to defeat US imperialism-headed forces of aggression and national oppression."

Comrade **Gus Hall, Secretary General of the Communist Party of the US** said: "On this sad occassion while paying our last homage to Comrade Ho Chi Minh, we can but pledge ourselves to renew and redouble our efforts to fulfil our responsibility and drive the US forces of aggression out of your soil."

On Sept 10. **Khamsouk Keola, President of the Committee of Laotian Neutralist Forces Alliance and Head of the Committee's Delegation attending President Ho Chi Minh's funeral**, said: "The Alliance and Laotian people express their respectful affection and deep regret for President Ho Chi Minh who in his lifetime staunchly supported the Laotian people's struggle against US intervention and aggression and for the building of a peaceful, neutral, independent, democratic, unified and prosperous Laos. Like the Vietnamese people, the Laotian people are resolved to translate sorrow into revolutionary acts, to strengthen the relations and the solidarity between the Laotian patriotic forces and Vietnamese people and to fight on till final victory."

A New US-Vientiane Rulers' Military Adventure

(Sept. 12 Statement by DRVN Foreign Ministry Spokesman on encroaching raids by US and Vientiane authorities on Xieng Khoang — Plain of Jars area).

SINCE August 1969, under the direct command of US advisors and with the participation of Thailand troops and the support of the US air force, the Laotian rightist army has been carrying out an encroaching attack on the Xieng Khoang — Plain of Jars area controlled by the Patriotic Front and patriotic neutralist forces of Laos.

This is a new military adventure by the US and its henchmen to further the US scheme for intensified intervention and aggression against Laos, a most serious breach of the 1962 Geneva Agreement on Laos, a gross challenge to the sovereignty, independence and neutrality of Laos, and a step which increases tension in Laos.

As a signatory to the 1962 Geneva Agreement on Laos, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam fully supports the Sept. 11, 1969 statement of the spokesman of the Supreme Command of the Laotian People's Liberation Army, and severely condemns these adventurist acts of war of the US, the Laotian rightist party and the Thailand reactionaries. The Laotian People's Liberation Army has the full right to hand well-deserved counter blows to the aggressors so as to defend the liberated areas and the fundamental national rights of the Laotian people.

The US and the Vientiane authorities must bear full responsibility for all consequences arising from their raid.

South Viet Nam Townspeople Step Up Actions

THE stubborn struggle of the various sections of the urban population is spreading in South Viet Nam parallel with the movement for an end to the US war of aggression, withdrawal of US troops, re-establishment of peace and removal of the Thieu-Ky clique.

The most striking was the students' opposition to summer holiday military training decreed by the Saigon puppet administration, the workers, civil servants and soldiers' action for the pegging of the cost of living, the workers and toiling people's protest against the peremptory suppression of the state-run bus service, the industrialists and traders' objection to tax-increase, and the journalists' drive for freedom of the press and respect of their dignity.

SAIGON STUDENTS RESIST MILITARY TRAINING

EARLY in July 1969, 30,000 students of 11 sections of various colleges in Saigon resisted stubbornly the Saigon quislings' decree to put them through military training during the summer vacation.

To stem the students' mounting dissent the puppet administration resorted to such subterfuges as corruption, favour granted to some students on the one hand, and on the other, totalitarian measures such as dismissal of 30 students of the Faculty of Letters, arbitrary arrest of students, terrorist repression, kidnapping of students with military trucks, surrounding of universities to isolate the dissenting students, assassination of Thai Van Hien, a student of the military training school, and of Nguyen Manh Hung (deliberately run by a military truck).

But the students did not give way. Since July 5, hundreds of medical students training in Saigon hospitals and over 4,500 students of 11 sections of various colleges in Saigon strack and 2,000 students of the Faculties of Letters, Pharmacy and Sciences staged hunger strikes. Others held demonstrations, sit-ins, teach-ins, boycotting votes and many students and professors delegations filed complaints with the puppet administration.

In teach-ins in front of the "National Assembly", the "Premier's Office", and the "Ministry of Education" in Saigon, students and professors' representatives declared they would prefer to stop work rather than go to drillgrounds. They also denounced the Saigon administration's move as a violation of autonomy of universities and an offence to the students' honour, liberty and democratic rights. They pressed that the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique cancel the unpopular decree.

WORKERS' FIGHT FOR VITAL RIGHTS

THESE last few days, the movement for wage-lift, reduction of cost of living and against the puppet administration's fascist measures has been spreading far and wide.

In May and June 1969, tens of thousands of workers of 201 T.U. organizations went into action for the same end.

At a congress held on June 8, 1969, 42 T.U. organizations passed a petition to the Saigon puppet authorities demanding application of effective measures to prevent price rise and enforcement of government decision on minimum wages.

Early August, over 5,000 dockers in Saigon asked for payment of compulsory idle hours due to curfew. "Silico" workers held that their bosses were responsible for groundless forced idle days. The "Esso" workers fought for wage-increase and improvement of working conditions. Workers of Thu Duc laundry struck against delayed pays. The salesmen's T.U. in Saigon demanded that the living cost be kept at the present level. Workers of rubber plantations at Binh Long and Tay Ninh fought against reduction of the rice ration and for the lowering of the living cost.

The life of workers, labouring people, civil servants and armymen and prices in South Viet Nam enemy-held towns and cities took pride of place in Saigon papers. *Tin Som* (Morning News) wrote that millions of people in Saigon suburbs had to rough it (July 10 issue) and heart-rending scenes were seen even in downtown Saigon (July 14).

On March 20, *Chinh Luan* (Opinion) said that workers were living from hand to mouth. Regarding civil servants, *Thoi Dai Moi* (New Times) wrote on April 29 that they earned so little that many of their children turned pickpockets and their wives harlots. Puppet MP Tran Van Que admitted that the life of militarymen and public servants was very hard. Should things go that way it would be a calamity, even a scourge (*Chinh Luan*, June 20, 1969).

From 1954 to 1969, prices have risen 4 times and for the last few months from 20 to 30 per cent. With the same sum of money, the wage-earners can only buy the third or the quarter of what they got previously.

Parallel with the movement for wagelift and reduction of the cost of living, transport workers have been opposing the Saigon administration's decision to denationalize the bus service.

The workers show great solidarity in that action. At the August 3 meeting, representatives of 118 T.U. organizations called on workers to walk out in sympathy with bus drivers and the bus passengers.

On August 6, the representative of the transport workers' T.U. declared that his organization was ready to back the bus drivers' aspirations and to stage a sympathetic strike.

On August 7, the representative of Lambretta drivers T.U. said that his 2,000 mates "will strike if necessary."

TRADERS AND INDUSTRIALISTS SCORE SAIGON QUISLINGS' PREDATORY TAXATION

SINCE June 13, 1969, traders and industrialists of South Viet Nam urban centres, chiefly Saigon, have been stubbornly fighting against the predatory measures taken by the Saigon clique disguised as "equalitarian taxes of stock-in-trade imported goods." Many representatives and high-ranking officials and officials and officers of the puppet regime have also raised their voices. Even Nguyen Cao Thang, Nguyen Van Thieu's special assistant threw up his post in protest.

On June 15, hundreds of traders and industrialists met at the Chamber of Commerce and came out against the puppet government's new economic measures, especially new taxation of stock-in-trade. "This is an illegal measure. Why not tax also the clothes we are wearing", said one of their spokesmen (June 15, 1969).

Without giving way to such arbitrary methods, over 2,000 traders and industrialists recently held another congress in which they decided to launch a new campaign against equalitarian taxes, should the puppet administration persist in maintaining them.

NEWSMEN DEMAND RESPECT OF THEIR DIGNITY

OPPOSING the Saigon authorities who manhandled and even beat the journalists on duty, on July 13, 1969, 53 newsmen in Saigon staged a 12-hour hunger strike which extorted from the puppet administration a communique in which it "undertook" to respect the dignity of newsmen. The latter stressed that under the Saigon regime, there was no freedom of the press and freedom of opinion, and therefore it is hard to preserve their dignity.

On August 5, 1969, 100 journalists, writers and artists in South Viet Nam released a manifesto denouncing to public opinion at home and abroad the repressive acts of which they had been victims.

In a petition sent to the Saigon administration, they strongly protested against the regime of censorship of publication and urged that the puppet authorities put an end to the reprisals and threats against the signatories to the August 5 petition as well as to the present undemocratic censorship

SOUTH VIET NAM, AN ENORMOUS U.S. ARMOURED CAR CEMETERY

(Continued from page 5)

They also brought down 2 choppers and killed or wounded 500 GIs on a 2,500-metre long road section.

In the same Tay Ninh sector, the June 9 battle provided an illustration of the military talent of the patriots. That day, a column of more than 100 vehicles, blocked at Bau Tram, decided to encamp there overnight. At 6.30 p.m. while the camp was being pitched, the PLAF swung into action, catching the enemy unawares, as he only expected them after nightfall. Forty-seven US tanks and armoured cars were knocked out and 400 GI casualties listed.

In the sectors of Binh Long and Tay Ninh a sizeable enemy armoured force has been committed, involving the 1st Infantry Division nicknamed "Big Red One," the "Tropic Lightning" as cited above, the US 11th Armoured Cavalry Regiment and its puppet godson bearing the designation of No.15. Yet, one has seen what losses the US-puppets sustained during the latest offensive. Besides, in June last, in the Hon Quan (Binh Long) sector alone, 2 drives of PLAF attacks already depleted the enemy's armoured potential. The first, between June 5 and June 9, put out of action 300 US vehicles mostly armoured cars of the 11th Regiment and the "Big Red One." More than a week later, between June 18 and June 23, in the same battle area, 200 other tanks and armoured cars experienced a similar disaster.

Diamond cuts diamond. US panzers meet on our soil with a formidable opponent who is capable not only of resisting them but also of trouncing them. Since the shield of M.14 tanks and others fails to resist the B.54 and similar weapons, the armoured belt of the protective dispositions installed by Abrams around his bases and occupied cities will be of no use to him. The defensive strategy opted by him will only lead to total defeat, no matter what technical means the US may occasionally throw into this losing war.

Military Operations

— On the Saigon Defence Line

2,250 Adverse Troops and 6 Companies and 214 Military Vehicles Put out of Action, and 48 Aircraft Shot Down.

— In the Mekong Delta

1,400 Enemy Casualties, One Battalion and One Battalion CP Badly Mauled.

— Around Da Nang

800 Troops and 5 Companies Wiped Out or Decimated, 14 Military Vehicles Blasted out of Use.

— Southern Trung Bo and South of DMZ

800 Troops Disabled, a Regimental HQ and 4 Companies Depleted.

IN a review of actions in 6 days, Sept. 5, 6, 7, 11, 12 and 14, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported:

On the **Saigon** defence line, bitter fighting in the provinces of Binh Long, Tay Ninh, Long Khanh and Thu Dau Mot (North and Southwest of Saigon) cost the US-puppet forces 2,250 men plus 6 companies, and 214 military vehicles (mostly tanks and APC's) put out of action and 48 aircraft of different types brought down.

Major battles took place in Binh Long, Tay Ninh and My Tho.

In **Binh Long**, on Sept. 11, in 7 ambushes on enemy motorized and infantry units on Route 13 and around Hon Quan city, the PLAF wiped out hundreds of adverse troops (including 2 companies completely destroyed), wrecked 71 military vehicles and cut down 5 choppers.

In **My Tho**, on the night of Sept. 11, the PLAF mounted shelling and ground attacks against 39 enemy positions, taking a toll of 480 adverse soldiers, burning 22 military vehicles, sinking 6 river craft and brought down 3 aircraft.

In **Tay Ninh**, on Sept. 11, Liberation fighters engaged US-puppet troops on a foray mission, wiping out one US company and 2 puppet security forces platoons, 130 of their men, and shooting down 2 choppers.

In the **Mekong Delta**: The PLAF disabled 1,400 US-puppet troops and inflicted heavy losses on a puppet battalion and a battalion CP (in Ben Tre, Can Tho, Tra Vinh, Chau Doc and Rach Gia provinces).

Particularly in Ben Tre, at dawn on Sept. 11, the PLAF made surprise attacks on the adversary in 7 district towns and Truc Giang City. In Mo Cay district town alone (13km South of Truc Giang city and 84km South of Saigon) the Liberation fighters knocked out virtually all the men of Battalion 2, puppet Regiment 7, and heavily depleted the CP of this battalion.

They also struck off the strength 3 security forces companies and liquidated more than 100 scoundrels of 3 "pacification" teams in the same district town. Earlier, on Sept. 4, in Vi Thanh city (Can Tho), the PLAF raided the rear base of Regiment 31, puppet Division 21, and pounded the residence of the provincial governor and administration offices, killing or wounding 200 enemy troops.

Around **Da Nang**: On the night of Sept. 4 and on Sept. 7, during artillery and ground attacks against enemy positions inside and outside the city, such as the base camp of the 3rd Army Corps HQ, the HQs of the US 1st Marine Division and 5th Marine Regiment, the logistic compound South of the city and the Da Nang and Nuoc Man airfields, the PLAF wrote off the muster roll 5 US-puppet companies, by inflicting 500 casualties.

During repeated onslaughts on the enemy around Tam Ky city, South of Da Nang, on Sept. 5, 6 and 11, the PLAF exacted a toll of 300 men and destroyed 14 military vehicles.

Southern Trung Bo and South of the DMZ

The biggest battle occurred on the night of Sept. 11 when the PLAF of Da Lat mounted ground and artillery assaults on **Di Linh** town (50 km South of Da Lat and 175km Northeast of Saigon). The targets included the military subsector, the puppet administration building, enemy positions in sector A and sector B (Northeast and South of the town); the attacking forces overran sector A, blew up 7 puppet administration offices, whittling down the HQ of puppet Regiment 53, wiped out 4 enemy companies, and 400 men. The PLAF also hit the enemy at Ba Ngoi, Khanh Hoa province, and the Cam Ranh base, knocking out 100 troops.

During shellings and infantry raids on enemy positions around **Dong Ha** (South of the DMZ), the base camp of Brigade One, US 101st Airborne Division and that of the puppet 1st Infantry Division (South and Southwest of Hue City) on Sept. 4 and 12, the PLAF put out of action 280 enemy troops and 32 military vehicles, raising the enemy casualty toll around Da Lat, in Khanh Hoa and South of the DMZ to nearly 800.

PLAF study session

SOUTH VIET NAM ENEMY-CONTROLLED AREAS MOURN FOR PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH

OVER the recent days, the people living in areas still under enemy control have been mourning for President HO CHI MINH, the great national hero, and organized ceremonies in his memory.

According to first reports by *Giai Phong* Press Agency, upon learning of his passing away, in defiance of repression and ban by the US-puppets, the people living in Binh Thoi, Binh Tien and Binh Tay streets, Saigon's 6th precinct, openly went into mourning. They held mourning rites and memorial ceremonies and set up altars.

Early on Sept. 4, at a restaurant, in spite of the presence of puppet policemen 50 people gathered around a radio set to listen to the special communiqué of the CC of the Viet Nam Workers' Party. Many could not hold back their tears. Many passers-by, including children and old folks, wept.

At night, in many streets, groups of people gathered around radio sets to listen to *The Voice of Viet Nam* Radio broadcasting the special communiqué and other important documents of the CC of the VNWP, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly and the Government of the DRVN on the death of President HO CHI MINH.

To meet the people's aspiration, fighters of armed propaganda squads in the 6th precinct printed in a short time thousands of copies of the communiqué on the mourning rites for President HO CHI MINH. These copies were immediately distributed to workers, youth, students, school-pupils, and puppet armymen and civil servants.

Since Sept. 5, many have begun to wear black armbands.

In Qui Nhon, when the news of the death of President HO CHI MINH was announced, people in many quarters swarmed into the streets to tell one another the sad news. Virtually all the city people tuned in *the Voice of Viet Nam* and *Liberation Radio* to get hour-to-hour news about the memorial ceremony for President HO CHI MINH and re-copy his biography and testament. Many people sobbed as they listened to the President's last instructions.

In defiance of enemy's repression, the people held ceremonies in memory of the late President. They erected altars and observed a 7-day mourning. In many public places, they displayed flags dressed with a black ribbon. Many trade union and student organisations held teach-ins about the President's work and distributed leaflets with his biography in them.

In pagodas, prayers were said for his soul.

Many members of the Saigon puppet army and administration publicly showed their affection and respect for the late President. Many armymen ignored their commanders' orders to conduct sweeps during the mourning period. Officials of their puppet administration wrote articles in newspapers exalting the service of President HO CHI MINH and urging the authorities to respect his memory.

Broad sections of public opinion in Qui Nhon city condemned the Thieu-Ky clique for its ban on the people's mourning for the venerated leader of the entire nation while the world's peoples paid high tribute to his memory and mourned him, and its sabotage of the three-day truce of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government, which behaviour hurt the sacred feelings of the people towards President HO CHI MINH. In various district towns and other urban centres of Binh Dinh province, the people wore mourning for the President and held ceremonies in his memory.